

1 A DECORATIVE EXTERNAL CURTAIN ASSEMBLY AND SYSTEM FOR
2 EXTERIOR DECORATION

3 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

4 1. Field of the Invention:

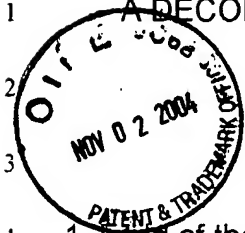
5 This invention generally relates to a novel decorative curtain assembly for
6 application to the exterior of buildings and similar structures, and more
7 particularly to a decorative external curtain assembly which is adapted for ease
8 of application and removal to create a system of exterior decoration for
9 application to the exterior of buildings that provides decorative and commercial
10 displays in a manner that takes advantage of a full range of artistic expression.

11 2. Background of the Invention:

12 It is well known to hang flags and banners from a porch using poles
13 during a Fourth of July celebration or from the façade of a retail store or
14 restaurant to advertise a holiday sale. Such display arrangements, however, are
15 limited by their ability to adapt the display to the structure variations in the
16 façade of the building and thereby fail to provide a full range of possible
17 decorative displays available for application to the exterior of a building.

18 In that regard, merely hanging a flag or banner from a pole or over the
19 edge of balcony is quite a restrictive expression which does not consider
20 application of fabric like materials to the varied recesses and surface features of
21 the façade of a building and its ancillary exterior structures such as a balcony.

22 In addition to the foregoing noted limitations, known arrangements for
23 supporting and attaching flags and banners, such as flag pole holders and



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1 grommet fastening, are limited in their application to the façade of the building,
2 require support structures that anchor into the building and therefore cannot be
3 easily or inexpensively applied to the building.

4 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a
6 decorative, external curtain assembly for decorating the external facades of
7 building structures that overcomes the deficiencies of the prior art.

8 Another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative, external
9 curtain assembly for application to building structures to create a system of
10 exterior decoration whereby building structures, such as houses, restaurants,
11 retail stores, tents, apartment buildings and office high-rises, having facades and
12 ancillary exterior structures, such as porches, balconies, eaves, gables, roof
13 lines are decorated using fabrics and/or flexible sheet materials for display for
14 any occasion such as during national holidays, festivals as well as for
15 advertising purposes.

16 Another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative external
17 curtain assembly and system of exterior decoration that is versatile in their ability
18 to apply external curtains, such as, valances, flags, banners, advertising
19 displays, to almost any type of exterior building façade.

20 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative
21 external curtain assembly and system that is simple to use and inexpensive to
22 make and use.

23 One particular advantageous feature of the present invention afforded by

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1 the easy of application of the decorative external curtain assembly is that it
2 provides for a system of exterior decoration that allows for changes of exterior
3 decoration to accommodate different seasons, holidays and even for an
4 appropriate day or night look.

5 Another advantageous feature of the present invention is that the
6 decorative external curtain assembly provides an easy and affordable basic
7 design element of the system of exterior decoration for manipulating the look,
8 mood and atmosphere of an exterior of a building as well as an associated
9 exterior area, such as a courtyard, plaza or the like.

10 These and other objects, advantages and features of the present
11 invention are achieved, according to one embodiment, by a decorative external
12 curtain assembly for applying fabric material to an external facade of a building,
13 the assembly comprising: a sheet of fabric material and complementary
14 engageable fastener strips respectively applied to the sheet of fabric material
15 and the external façade of the building for fastening the fabric material to the
16 external façade of the building.

17 According to a further embodiment of the present invention, the
18 complementary engageable fastener strips are made of VELCRO™ tape to
19 create a temporary bond between the building and the fabric that is easily
20 broken by pulling apart the VELCRO™ strips. The VELCRO™ strips are
21 respectively attached to the building, for example, with any existing adhesive or
22 hot glue and to the fabric material either by sewing or adhesive.

23 According to the present invention, there is further provided a system of

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1 exterior decoration of a building having a facade, the system comprising: a
2 decorative external curtain assembly for applying fabric material to an external
3 facade of a building, the assembly comprising: a sheet of fabric material and
4 complementary engageable fastener strips respectively applied to the sheet of
5 fabric material and the external façade of the building for fastening the fabric
6 material to the external façade of the building to create a temporary bond
7 between the building and the fabric that is easily broken by pulling by pulling the
8 fastener strips apart.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

9
10 Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of the novel decorative curtain
11 assembly of the present invention applied to the external façade of a building
12 comprising a porch on the front to a detached single family dwelling;

13 Figure 2 depicts the complementary engageable fastener strips, made, for
14 example of VELCRO™ tape;

15 Figure 3 illustrates the application of further embodiments of the present
16 invention applied, for example to a commercial business structure as a way for
17 offering an easy and versatile means whereby small, franchise or museum
18 enterprises can advertise and communicate changes in product, prices,
19 decorations, and the like;

20 Figure 4 illustrated yet another embodiment of the present invention
21 applied to a façade of temporary, outdoor structure such as a tent; and

22 Figure 5 illustrates still a further embodiment of the present invention as
23 applied to a multi-story building having different types of facades.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

Referring to Figure 1, one embodiment of a novel decorative curtain assembly according to the teachings of the present invention is generally indicated at 11 and illustrated as applied to the external façade 15 of a building 17. In the illustrative example of Figure 1, the external façade 15 comprises a porch on the front the building 17, for example, a detached single-family dwelling or home. The decorative curtain assembly 11 is adapted to apply decorative fabric material 19, illustrated here as pleated fabric, to the external facade 15 of the building 17.

Generally indicated at 21 are complementary engageable fasteners, such as, for example, made of VELCRO™ tape or strips, that are used to attach the decorative curtain assembly 11 to the external facade 15. The complementary engageable fasteners 21 create a strong and yet temporary bond between the building and the fabric that is easily broken by pulling apart the VELCRO™ strips. The VELCRO™ strips are preferable and respectively attached to the building with any existing adhesive or glue and to the fabric material by either sewing or adhesive.

In Figure 1 the decorative fabric 19 is shown in the form of a valance with inverted box pleats, a short drapery hung at the top of a structure with the fabric folded equal manner and distance, by pressing the upper pleats towards each other and the under pleats pressed in opposite directions. The invention allows for a wide range of options for the decorative fabric 19 while the mechanics of the complementary engageable fasteners 21 allows for an easy and inexpensive

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1 method of changing the decorative fabric 19 on an exterior façade 15.

2 Options similar to the goals and versatility of interior curtains are
3 available by altering the fabric weight, content, weave, color and drapery (folds
4 of fabric), with auxiliary embellishments as part of its basic design such as
5 piping, fringe, ties, tassels; or separate additions attached with at appropriate
6 placement, using glue or VELCRO™, such additional attachments including, for
7 example, bows, bells, banners and communications can accent the beauty and
8 look of the of building 17.

9 Possible artistic options include sun and weather resistant fabric, often
10 used in standard awnings, of colors accenting the house; or seasonal changes
11 such as a light fabric of cotton or linen in light colors of white, beige, tan or blue
12 in solids or stripes draped in a swage or generous flounce for summer
13 decoration. Additional decorations of piping, cording, tassels, fringe or even
14 novelty decorations such as seashells, etc., can either be part of the basic
15 design or an additional option added with a VELCRO™ attachment. The look of
16 the exterior area can easily be changed for evening; an example decoration
17 would be a loose weave metallic fabric.

18 Autumn lends itself to heavier fabric of colors of gold and oranges or
19 perhaps a forest green with a metallic gold edging. The exterior curtain can
20 easily be changed for Halloween decorations; an example would be a synthetic
21 mesh looking like spider webs with scary auxiliary decorations.

22 Again, ease of application allows for appropriate changes for holiday
23 decorations. A red, white and blue theme for Memorial Day and Fourth of July

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1 can be designed from traditional flag material typically nylon, or a cotton or
2 cotton blend fabric allowing for greater range of print options. Christmas
3 decoration possibilities include traditional, cultural and innovative expression of
4 the holiday. Fabric of dense weave with colors of deep reds, greens and gold in
5 solids or traditional seasonal patterns can be embellished with fringe, tassels
6 and ties; polyester white chiffon can be draped in a swage tied with red bows;
7 nostalgic, religious or humorous decorations are all appropriate for this holiday.

8 Artistic expression of a current cultural fad such as a denim, the diversity
9 of our ethnic culture or sporting events using a variety of fabrics, colors, drapery
10 (folds of fabric), appropriate words such as "HAPPY HOLIDAYS", "WELCOME",
11 "GO TEAM"; auxiliary embellishments as part of its basic design or as additions
12 attached with appropriate VELCRO™ placement including the possibility of
13 decorative lights of safe voltage and placement are all in the range of this
14 application.

15 Referring to Figure 2, the complementary engageable fasteners 21,
16 shown as seen from standing on the porch looking out, comprise complementary
17 engageable fastener strips 21a, 21b, respectively attached to the fabric and the
18 building, for affixing the decorative curtain assembly 11 to the external facade
19 15. The strips 21a, 21b preferably comprise, for example, VELCRO™ tape or
20 strips having co-acting miniature hooks and loops formed of relatively rigid
21 filament material. The decorative curtain assembly 11 is affixed to the building
22 using the action of the VELCRO™ strips 21a, 21b which adhere to together to
23 create a strong attachment and yet temporary bond that is easily broken by

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1 simply pulling the two strips 21a, 21b apart.

2 As is well known, VELCRO™ the co-acting miniature hooks and loops, on
3 separate side of the VELCRO™ strip, engage one another so that the
4 VELCRO™ strips adhere together using the same action that is employed when
5 a burr attaches itself to a piece of clothing or the like. One side of the strip 21a
6 of the VELCRO™ tape is attached to the external façade 15 of the building 17 at
7 the appropriate location, using, for example, any suitable existing adhesive or
8 hot glue; while the other side of the strip 21b of VELCRO™ tape is either sewn
9 or appropriately adhered, by hot glue or convention adhesive, in this instance, to
10 top edge of the decorative fabric material 19.

11 In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, one of the VELCRO™
12 strips 21a is attached to an upper inside horizontal surface 25 of the porch 15
13 that run adjacent the ceiling of the porch and the other of the VELCRO™ strips
14 21b is attached to the decorative fabric material 19 at least along one edge 23
15 thereof. The inventor has found that a VELCRO™ strip of about two inches wide
16 is sufficient for affixing the decorative fabric material 19 to the external façade 15
17 of the building 17.

18 Figure 3 illustrates further embodiments of the decorative external curtain
19 assembly 11 wherein the decorative fabric comprises an advertising banner 27
20 applied to an eaves of a commercial building 26, such as a restaurant, retail
21 store or the like. Also shown in Figure 3 is another embodiment of the decorative
22 external curtain assembly 11 wherein the decorative fabric comprises a flag or
23 banner 29 applied to an eaves of a commercial or residential building 28. This

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1 invention allows for the commercial communication to be easily and
2 inexpensively changed throughout the year and applicable for a wide range of
3 commercial uses including a small individual business, mass reproduction for a
4 franchise or an artistic expression at a museum.

5 Figure 4 illustrates yet another embodiment of the present invention
6 applied to a façade of temporary, outdoor structure such as a tent. Because this
7 structure is often used for special occasions, and the diversity of occasions is
8 increased because it is often a rental structure, the decorative exterior curtain
9 assembly can be adapted for ease and versatility of decorations similar to the
10 artistic expressions conveyed for Figure 1. One side of the required VELCRO™
11 strip is adhered to the structure while the other side of the VELCRO™ strip is
12 used to attached a variety of decorative items such as fabrics of different
13 weights, weaves, colors, drapes and lengths combined with fringe, piping, ties,
14 tassels to create the desired look, mood and atmosphere for the event along
15 with auxiliary decoration such as wedding bells, reflective stars, lights, etc.

16 As shown in Figure 4, one strip of the VELCRO™ tape 21a is attached to
17 the appropriate edge of the temporary structure 33 and the decorative fabric 19
18 is draped to form three overlapping swags 77 with jabots 88 at each side. This
19 design for the decorative fabric 19 can be constructed so each section; jabot 88,
20 swag 77a and swags 77b; is permanently attached to each other creating a fixed
21 length. The other strip of the VELCRO™ tape 21b is adhered across the entire
22 top edge of the decorative fabric 19 that faces the outside, attaching properly to
23 VELCRO™ tape 21a.

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1 This particular design could also be constructed in the following way. The
2 three swags 77 and the jabot 88 that form the decorative fabric 19 would each
3 be constructed separately. Along the top edge of each swag 77 and jabot 88
4 VELCRO™ tape 21b would be attached to the fabric side facing outward.

5 On the right and left sides of swags 77b would have a strip of VELCRO™
6 tape 21a attached parallel to the VELCRO™ tape 21b on the side of the fabric
7 facing inward. The overlap of each section could be manipulated so the length of
8 the decorative fabric 19 could vary to fit the structure. In this embodiment of the
9 invention, a temporary outdoor structure such as a tent 33 the goals and
10 versatility expressed for Figure 1 are available by altering the fabric weight,
11 content, weave, color and drapery (folds of fabric), with auxiliary embellishments
12 as part of its basic design such as piping, fringe, ties, tassels; or separate
13 additions attached with appropriate VELCRO™ placement, for example bows,
14 bells, banners and communications such as "CONGRATULATIONS", "BEST OF
15 LUCK", "ALUMNUS";

16 Figure 5 shows the application of various embodiments of the present
17 invention applied to the balconies of a multi-story building such as an apartment
18 building, office building or hotel. This application allows the possibility of
19 apartment dwellers and occupying commercial entities for above mentioned
20 expression.

21 Although the present invention has been described in terms of specific
22 exemplary embodiments, it will be appreciated that various modifications and
23 alterations might be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the

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- 1 spirit and scope of the invention as specified in the following claims.